



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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Cal/EPA Recognizes Businesses Committed to Pollution Prevention

SACRAMENTO - As part of National Pollution Prevention Week, September 18-24, California Environmental Protection Agency Secretary Linda Adams will recognize several businesses for their pollution prevention efforts. The presentations will take place at the Hyatt Regency Long Beach (Harbor Conference Rooms B and C) at the Long Beach Convention Center on Tuesday, Sept. 19, at 11 a.m. during the California and World Ocean Conference. The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) Director Maureen Gorsen and the California Resources Agency Secretary Mike Chrisman will also be attending the ceremony.

"Protecting and preserving California's environment is very important to Gov. Schwarzenegger," said Linda Adams, Secretary for Environmental Protection. "I want to congratulate the leaders that are standing here with me today for their tremendous efforts to prevent pollution and teaching customers and workers about pollution prevention."

Pollution Prevention Week originated in California in 1993 and was a product of a coalition of local government agencies in partnership with DTSC. The week provides an opportunity for government, industry and environmental groups to focus on the economic and environmental benefits associated with pollution prevention policies and programs. It has now become a national event used to promote achievable, measurable reductions in pollution generation, and to increase distribution of pollution prevention information.

DTSC has partnered with both large and small businesses to reduce the generation of hazardous waste. These volunteer programs have helped businesses cut costs, increase productivity and worker safety, and have reduced industries' impact on the environment.

Businesses receiving recognition this year include:

Catholic Healthcare West & Kaiser Permanente for promoting pollution prevention practices and eliminating mercury in their hospitals by participating in the Mercury (Hg) Elimination Leadership Program (HELP).

Marina Recreation Association of California for developing the first California statewide Clean Marinas Program, which incorporates pollution prevention practices.

Toyota Motor Sales for including pollution prevention in its corporate policies and providing training to its employees in environmentally sound practices.

Western States Petroleum Association for partnering with DTSC to host three pollution prevention technical conferences for the California petroleum industry.

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California State Automobile Association for partnering with DTSC to develop the Model Shop Pollution Prevention Program for its auto repair shop affiliates.

Chemical Industry Council of California for working in cooperation with DTSC to develop the State's first chemical industry pollution prevention challenge program.

California Autobody Association for partnering with DTSC to develop and implement a pollution prevention program designed specifically for the autobody industry.

"These businesses represent well over \$50 billion in sales annually in California, so their commitment to pollution prevention will have a tremendous impact on preserving and protecting the environment and public health," said DTSC Director Maureen Gorsen. "Their efforts and success cover a variety of environmental media, from preventing mercury from re-entering the environment to assisting boat owners in reducing the amount of waste generated at docks. These voluntary programs demonstrate that pollution prevention can be developed and implemented within all California businesses – large and small," Gorsen added.

Pollution Prevention Program Impacts:

- 95-million pound reduction in hazardous waste generated from California oil refineries in 2002.
- \$14 million in savings for oil refineries from annual disposal fees in 2002.
- 2 tons of mercury eliminated from California hospitals since 2003.
- \$7,000 estimated savings for each small auto repair shops that implemented DTSC's pollution prevention best management practices.
- 1,287 tons of absorbent materials such as kitty litter not purchased and not being disposed of in our landfills. (It would take 1,000 pick up truck loads to get all this kitty litter to the dump.)
- 30,000 gallons of oil not needing to be extracted from the litter or, worst case, being sent to a land fill.
- 360 fewer employees exposed to chemicals that may pose health risks.
- Hundreds of businesses participate in the California Take-It-Back Partnership by providing collection areas for consumers to recycle universal waste (batteries, fluorescent lights and small electronics), keeping toxics out of landfills.

Pollution prevention resources are available through DTSC and many local agencies. These resources provide information on voluntary pollution prevention practices to many businesses and industry.

For more information, call Carol Singleton at 916-275-4398 or visit the DTSC Website

www.dtsc.ca.gov/PollutionPreventionControl.

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The Department of Toxic Substances Control is a department of the California Environmental Protection Agency. DTSC's mission is to restore, protect, and enhance the environment and ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.